

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 EB-07

OES-03 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 /073 W

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O R 241515Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6697

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 3788

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO SIGNING/INITIALLING OF SINI II
PROTOCOL

1. ALL EGYPTIAN PAPERS HEADLINED SIGNING/INITIALLING AT GENEVA OF
SINI II PROTOCOL AS MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH PROMINENT PICTURE
OF MAJOR GENERAL AL-MAGDOUB AT SIGNING CEREMONY. SUB-HEADLINES
SAID FIRST STEP IN TIMETABLE WILL BE HANDING OVER OF SINAI OILFIELDS
FOLLOWED BY WITHDRAWAL FROM PASSES.

2. PRESS QUOTES SHILVASVUO EXPLANATION THAT DUE TO "SPECIAL CONSID-
ERATIONS" ISRAELI DELEGATE ONLY INITIALLED WHILE EGYPT SIGNED AND
AHAM QUOTED ISRAEL RADIO AS STATING ISRAEL WILL CONSIDER
PROTOCOL EFFECTIVE AFTER BOTH PARTIES SIGN AND THAT ISRAEL'S FINAL
SIGNATURE WILL COME AFTER CONGRESS HAS AGREED TO STATIONING OF
AMERICAN TECHNICIANS. ISRAELI DEL ROSENNE QUOTED AS SAYING JOINT
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COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN OPERATING ONE MONTH AFTER CONGRESSIONAL

APPROVAL AND ISRAELI FORCES WILL COMPLETE THEIR WITHDRAWAL TO NEW DEFENSE LINES FIVE MONTHS AFTER FINAL SIGNATURE.

3. AKHBAR QUOTED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES THAT BY SIGNING IN FULL EGYPT HAD PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION ON ISRAEL. REPORT BY AHRAH "POLITICAL EDITOR" ON PAGE ONE MAKES CLEAR THAT, IN EGYPTIAN VIEW, SEPT 23 "SIGNING" SIGNALS BEGINNING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TIMETABLE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL SINCE EGYPT HAD, DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SECRETARY, REJECTED ISRAELI PROPOSAL THAT AGREEMENT BE RECONSIDERED IF CONGRESS REFUSED TO APPROVE TECHNICIANS. EGYPT DOES NOT LINK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENTATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL WOULD NOT NULLIFY AGREEMENT BUT WOULD ONLY REQUIRE SEEKING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO AMERICAN TECHNICIANS. THEREFORE, "WITH SIGNING OF AGREEMENT YESTERDAY ISRAELI FORCES WILL BEGIN TO WITHDRAW FROM AREAS AGREED UPON."

4. RETURN OF OIL FIELDS PLAYED AS MOST IMMEDIATE BENEFIT. TIME-TABLE GIVEN IS THAT PROCESS TO TRANSFER OIL FIELDS WOULD START WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF "THE PROTOCOL'S SIGNATURE" AND TAKE MAXIMUM OF EIGHT WEEKS SO THAT ALL OIL FIELDS WILL BE RESTORED TO EGYPT BY END OF NOVEMBER. MINPET HILAL'S MEETINGS WITH EGYPTIAN OIL INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES TO ARRANGE TAKEOVER GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE. NORTHERN FIELDS OF SUDR, ASL AND RAS MATARMA TO BE TAKEN OVER DURING FIRST STAGE BY FIVER AMERICAN MOBIL TECHNICIANS. SECOND STAGE WILL INCLUDE SOUTHERN FIELDS OF BALA'IM ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE, ABU RUDAIS, SIDRI AND FOIRAN, AND CONTACTS UNDERWAY WITH ITALIANS TO PROVIDE TECHNICIANS TO TAKE OVER THESE FIELDS IN NOVEMBER. EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS WILL SUBSEQUENTLY PROCEED TO BOTH FIELDS.

5. TO BUTTRESS POSITIVE TREATMENT OF SIGNING OF ACCORD ALL PAPERS GAVE PROMINENCE TO REPORT THAT "HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL" IN NEW YORK SAID SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM IS DUE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER TO DISCUSS BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ON GOLAN.

6. COMMENT: AS IN PAST, GOE CONCENTRATING ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF EVENT, BUT SHOWING CONSIDERABLE CANDOR IN PROVIDING READERS WITH DIFFERING ISRAELI INTERPRETATION OF WHEN TIMETABLE BECOMES EFFECTIVE. FACT THAT THERE ARE NO EDITORIALS TODAY ON SIGNING OF PROTOCOL SUGGESTS THAT GOE HOPES THIS POTENTIALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERIOUS PROBLEM WILL EVAPORATE WITH RAPID CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF U.S. TECHNICIANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SINAI, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO09521
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750331-0160
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750919/aaaaaqek.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO SIGNING/INITIALING OF SINI II PROTOCOL
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006